

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) voted in support of legislation today to invest in community policing, juvenile courts, and neighborhood revitalization programs which provide grants for local law enforcement projects in the 24th district.

“As a former District Attorney, I know just how important it is to invest in community building programs to deter crime and drug use and help neighborhoods get back on their feet,” **said Arcuri, who managed debate yesterday on the resolution providing for consideration of the FY 2008 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill**

. “Grant programs like COPS and Weed and Seed are critical because crime is cyclical – simply because we have managed to contain it and reduce it for the present does not mean it goes away forever. As district attorney, I learned how effective drug courts – like the one we set up in Oneida County – can be in helping reduce addiction and curbing drug use on our streets. This bill provides the critical investments we need to help our communities thrive.”

As a former Oneida County District Attorney for 13 years, Arcuri strongly supported the bill’s increased funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, the Weed and Seed program to help localities deter crime and promote neighborhood revitalization, and local drug courts. The bill also contains necessary investments in the National Science Foundation, Economic Development Agency, and NASA.

“I know first-hand how vitally important these programs are in assisting local law enforcement to hire and train law enforcement officers to participate in community policing, purchase and deploy new crime-fighting technologies, and develop and test new and innovative policing strategies,” **said Arcuri**. “This bill would reverse years of drastic cuts in state and local law enforcement assistance under previous Congresses and this Administration – making sure local law enforcement has the tools necessary to protect our communities.”

From 2001 to 2006, funding for local law enforcement grants was cut by 42 percent -- from \$4.4 billion to \$2.5 billion. Meanwhile, last year, the FBI reported that violent crime had its biggest increase in over a decade.

**H.R. 3093, FY 2008 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill includes:**

\$725 million for the Community Oriented Policing (COPS) Program, \$183 million above the 2007 funding level. This includes \$100 million for the COPS hiring program; \$175 million for expanding DNA analysis and forensic crime lab capacity; and \$85 million for beefing up enforcement in “meth hot spots,” places where meth is a serious problem. Since 1994, the COPS program has enabled police across the 24th district to hire an additional 201 police officers and/or sheriff’s deputies through \$15,180,133 in grants awarded to local law enforcement agencies. Since 1994, the COPS program has enabled local law enforcement agencies to hire 26 additional school resource officers and allocated \$3,177,392 to the 24th district to purchase technology and training that helps move police from behind their desks so they can patrol a beat.

\$400 million for juvenile justice programs, \$62 million above the 2007 level. This includes funding for such items as \$100 million for competitive youth mentoring grants; \$81 million for delinquency prevention grants; and \$60 million for Justice Accountability Block Grants.

\$430 million, or \$48 million above 2007, for Violence Against Women programs to reduce violence against women, and to strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The President’s budget proposes cutting Violence Against Women programs by \$13 million.

\$6.5 billion for the FBI, which is \$509 million above 2007 and \$148 million above the President’s request. According to the FBI, under the President’s request, the Bureau would have needed to institute a hiring freeze, postpone new programs, and cut operations across the board. The bill’s funding includes an additional \$71 million for counterterrorism and criminal investigation efforts, allowing the Bureau to hire an additional 272 agents.

Earlier this year, Arcuri cosponsored the bipartisan COPS Reauthorization Act of 2007 (H.R. 1700) which passed the House in May and would authorize a total of \$1.15 billion a year over the next six years for COPS programs nationwide.

Today, Arcuri announced that the U.S. Department Justice approved a \$200,000 grant to the City of Rome Weed and Seed program to reduce crime in target neighborhoods and promote neighborhood revitalization

As a member of the House Rules Committee, Arcuri managed debate on the resolution providing for H.R. 3093. A copy of Arcuri’s remarks is included below.

**The Honorable Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24)**

**In the House of Representatives**

**Floor Speech on H. Res. 562, Providing for Consideration of H.R. 3093**

**Wednesday, July 25, 2007**

Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 562 and ask for its immediate consideration.

For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Washington, Mr. Hastings. All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have five legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials into the Record.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker. House Resolution 562 provides an open rule for consideration of H.R. 3093, the "Departments of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2008."

I want to thank the distinguished Chairman of the Committee and the Ranking Member for reporting out a bill that does not pay "lip service," but makes critical investments in our Nation's communities.

The bill provides \$725 million dollars for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, 25 percent above the current funding level. As a former prosecutor, I know how vitally important these programs are in assisting local law enforcement to hire and train law enforcement officers to participate in community policing, purchase and deploy new crime-fighting technologies, and develop and test new and innovative policing strategies.

The administration had proposed to modify the COPS program into a new discretionary grant

program, but the Committee has chosen instead to keep COPS as a separate, dedicated grant program. This is a proven model for getting these grants to the communities that need them and I applaud the committee for preserving this program.

The bill includes \$303 million dollars for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The EDA administers several economic development programs, including public works grants for upgrading infrastructure, planning, and trade adjustment assistance for communities that bear the burden of jobs outsourced to other countries.

Additionally, the legislation would direct the EDA to consider, with a favorable bias, grant proposals which incorporate “green” technologies and strategies that would reduce energy consumption, reduce harmful gas emissions and contribute to sustainability.

This bill provides \$50 million dollars, 52 percent more than current funding, for the Weed and Seed. The Weed and Seed program helps localities develop programs to weed out and deter crime and then take the all important step – often left out – of seeding the formerly high-crime areas with programs to promote neighborhood revitalization. The funds will be used to carry out this mission at sites in communities such as Utica and Rome, New York, cities which I represent, and sponsor activities such as truancy prevention, conflict resolution, mentoring, and job-training for at-risk youths.

Additionally, I am honored that the bill this resolution provides for consideration includes \$40 million dollars for grants, technical assistance, and training to state and local governments to develop dedicated drug courts that subject non-violent offenders to an integrated mix of treatment, drug testing, incentives, and sanctions.

As a District Attorney, I quickly learned that no matter what initiatives law enforcement took to reduce the supply of drugs, it never really affected the demand for drugs, which never seemed to go down and therefore created a market for drug dealers. But when my office established the county’s drug court program, I realized the powerful affect that the program had in helping enrolled participants get control of their addiction, and thereby reducing the demand for drugs. The appropriation of \$40 million dollars for drug court provided by H.R. 3093 is \$30 million more than the current level and I congratulate the committee for increasing funds for this vital and proven weapon in the war on drugs.

H.R. 3093 would also create incentives to fight illegal immigration. It would prohibit the federal government from using any of these funds on any entity that does not participate in the basic pilot program which allows employers to verify whether potential or current employees can legally work in the United States. This voluntary pilot program was created by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Responsibility Act of 1996 and allows employers to verify employment status through an automated system linked to Social Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security databases.

This legislation includes six and a half billion dollars for the National Science Foundation. This level of funding will support the doubling of NSF's budget over the next 10 years and represents a true commitment to investment in basic research and development which will provide for innovation and future technologies. This commitment is an important part of the Innovation Agenda, designed to maintain U.S. competitiveness.

H.R. 3093 includes over \$17.6 billion for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. NASA's unique mission is to pioneer the future in space exploration, scientific discovery, and aeronautics research and this appropriation enables them to accomplish this mission by restoring some of the cuts made by the Administration to the science, aeronautics, and education portfolios at the agency. This recommendation also provides for the continued efforts of NASA's Moon-Mars goals. The Act calls on NASA to expand human knowledge; develop and operate advanced aeronautical and space-faring vehicles; encourage commercial use of space; coordinate with other U.S. agencies to maximize research results; cooperate with other nations in research and applications; and to preserve U.S. preeminence in aeronautics and space.

This bill prohibits the use of funds by the FBI to issue national security letters in contravention of the statutes authorizing their use. National security letters enable the FBI to secretly review customer records of suspected foreign agents without judicial review. In March, the Department of Justice Inspector General reported that FBI agents had, in numerous cases, misused national security letters without complying with either statutes or DOJ guidelines governing their use. This widespread abuse of secret investigatory powers undermines the very notions of liberty and freedom from tyranny upon which this nation was founded. The prohibition on use of funds contained in H.R. 3093 will insure that such abuse does not continue.

Mr. Speaker, I've addressed only a handful of the important programs for which H.R. 3093 would appropriate funds. My remarks have focused on the criminal justice and economic development aspects of this bill, but there are many other important areas addressed in this legislation. It provides funding for critical scientific research, including several programs which study global warming and climate change that the Administration attempted to eliminate. The Appropriations Committee has approved a bill which would maintain the funding for this critical

research and I once again thank them for their work and welcome the chance to vote in favor of this legislation.

Thank you, I reserve the balance of my time.

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